

Printers CASE:

Humbly submitted to the Consideration of the

Honourable the House of COMMONS.



It is Humbly conceiv'd, That the Tax of One Penny upon a Half Sheet, and Two Pence upon a Sheet of every Paper and Pamphlet, is not intended as a Method for preventing *Libels*; because a Remedy for this is Propos'd, by obliging the *Bookseller* and *Printer* of every Paper, to set their *Names* and *Places of Abode* to the said Papers.

THAT after the said Duty (of about Twenty Papers of Half Sheets which come out every Week, besides many other Occasional ones) there will not Two be publish'd, by reason of this Tax; which will advance every Penny Paper to Three Pence, or Two Pence Halfpenny at least, and every Pamphlet in Proportion.

THAT of many Hundred *Master-Printers* and *Journymen* in this City, two Thirds do entirely depend upon the Printing of small Papers and Pamphlets, especially the latter; by which all *Britain* is supplied with Sermons, and other Tracts of Devotion, at a cheap Rate: And therefore two Thirds of the said *Printers*, with their Families, must be entirely Ruin'd.

THAT, with all Submission, nothing will contribute more to the *Spreading* and *Publishing Seditious Libels*, than the said Tax; because, it is to be fear'd, that many of the *poorer Printers*, to prevent their Families from Starving, will be tempted to Print whatsoever shall be offer'd them, by any Person who will be at the Charge of the Impression, tho' at never so great a Hazard.

THAT the intended Tax upon Paper (which to the Buyer will amount to near 30 *per Cent.*) is apprehended to be a *sufficient Load* upon the *Printers*, and perhaps equal to that upon any other Trade.

THAT Paper, after it is Printed, is of no intrinsic Value at all, but depends merely upon the Humour and Opinion of People; and that there are few Printers in this Town, who have not many Thousand Copies by them, which they daily sell for waste Paper.

THAT the *Printers* are heartily disposed to correct all *Abuses* in their Trade; and have herewith annex'd their humble PROPOSALS to that End, to this HONOURABLE HOUSE; which they doubt not will prove the most effectual Means, for preventing the *Publishing of all Seditious Libels and Pamphlets*.